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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/DDR/USSR
SUBJECT The Austrian Delegation to the World Youth Festival of Berlin

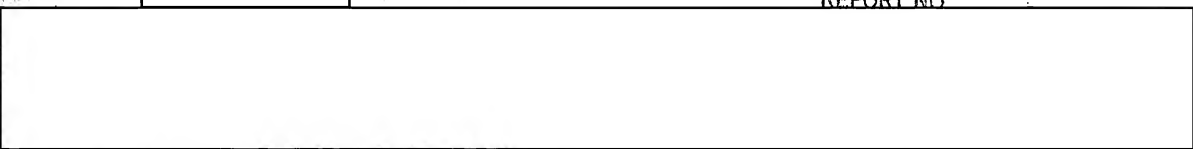
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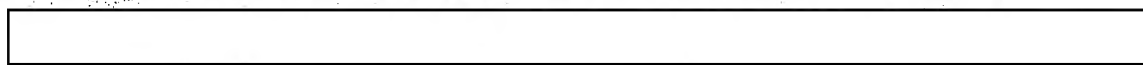
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1



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This report is submitted for whatever value it may have as background information.

Membership in the Austrian Delegation to Berlin

- Under the leadership of Otto Brichacek and Paul Frischauer, almost 1,700 members of the Free Austrian Youth (FOeJ) attended the Communist-sponsored World Youth Festival held in Berlin in August 1951. The FOeJ delegates were accompanied by eleven members of the left-wing Socialist youth group, Sozialistische Arbeiterjugend, and a few workers without party affiliation. Hans Breunig acted as executive secretary for the Austrian delegation, which was made up as follows: (1)

Sports groups	300 persons	Group from Styria	200 persons
Cultural groups	300	Group from Carinthia	50
Group from Vienna	300	Group from Tyrol and Vorarlberg	17
Group from Lower Austria	300	Group from Salzburg	15
- It was originally planned that individual FOeJ groups would elect a total of 2,000 persons to attend the Festival. Although this procedure was used in some cases, most of the delegates were simply appointed by FOeJ officials. Each FOeJ group was allotted a proportional number of slots to be filled by its own membership, and groups attached to KPOs factory cells were allowed additional slots for the election of non-Party workers. For lack of funds, however, not all of the allotted places could be filled, with the result that almost any FOeJ member who had sufficient cash was allowed to join the delegation.
- Several weeks before departure from Vienna, each delegate was instructed to fill out a series of questionnaires pertaining to his personal and political background. These questionnaires were used by the national directorate (Bundesleitung) of the FOeJ in making security checks. There is no indication that any of the delegates was disqualified for security reasons.

Financial Requirements

- Food, shelter and transportation were financed by the East German Government. Two weeks before departure from Vienna, each Austrian delegate was required to pay 350 schillings to cover the expenses of the Preparatory Committee and to pay for flags, banners and other equipment of the delegation. (2) USIA apprentices elected to attend the Festival and non-FOeJ workers who were invited to travel to Berlin received the necessary funds from the Cultural Section (Kulturreferat) of USIA. FOeJ members elected to the delegation were given printed collection lists

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with which to solicit contributions for the trip. Travellers who were not elected or appointed to the delegation were required to pay their own way. In addition to the fee of 350 schillings, each delegate was obliged before boarding the train to contribute 20 schillings for the victims of the Korean war and 60 schillings to be exchanged for German marks.

Organization of the Austrian Delegation

5. Two days before departure a meeting was held to introduce delegates to their group leaders.(3) Each leader was fully responsible for, and in most cases well acquainted with, the ten members of his group. Members were warned that they must stay close to their group leaders and that entertainment would be permitted in blocks of eleven only.
6. Each delegate held a membership card giving his name, the name of his group leader, the number of his group, the number of his train and the address of his billet in Berlin. Several hours before train time on 3 August, all groups and leaders assembled in the Burggarten, Vienna I, and were checked off, with membership cards, against lists held by KPOe officials.(4) No further checks were made before departure. Group leaders were instructed to conduct a quiet and orderly march from the Burggarten to Karlsplatz and on to the Ost Bahnhof where the delegates boarded two special trains without incident.

Travel and Accommodations

7. Throughout the trip there was no sign of passport control on the part of Austrian, Czech or East German authorities. The trains stopped only briefly at each border, and were evidently cleared for passage by some previous arrangement. Group leaders had been instructed to discourage conversation with Czechs and the use of cameras in transit through Czechoslovakia. They were cautioned that anyone detaining in Czechoslovakia or Germany was liable to arrest by the Czech or East German police.
8. Upon arriving in Berlin, the Austrians were taken by bus to their billets, consisting of converted public buildings on Prenzlauerberg. Headquarters for the delegation was located at Dunkerstrasse 64, with other billets on Carmen Silvia Strasse and Kleinstrasse. Two plain clothes detectives of the East German Police were stationed in each building used by the Austrian delegation. According to the official explanation, these detectives were provided to act as guides and answer questions for the Austrian visitors. Their sole function, however, was to keep a close watch on the delegates.
9. Five officials of the Free German Youth (FDJ) were attached to each foreign delegation throughout the Festival, and were responsible for transportation, food supplies, cultural activities, sport programs and liaison with the Festival main committee (Zentralrat).(5) Although transportation included bus service to and from the various scheduled events, many delegates missed parts of the program because the bus drivers, who had been brought from Dresden, Leipzig and Magdeburg, were not familiar with East Berlin. After several days of confusion an FDJ pilot was assigned to each bus, but in some cases the FDJ personnel were likewise unacquainted with the city.

Austrian Participation in the Festival Program

10. The Austrian contribution to the World Youth Festival consisted of an "Austrian national program" performed in part by the Zentrale Kulturensemble FOeJ, a mandolin orchestra from Fohnsdorf, Styria, a folk-dance group from Gruenbach, Lower Austria, and a song and dance group from the USIA plant of Siemens-Schuckertwerke. Group leaders had been instructed to enforce, or at least to encourage, full attendance at most of the activities on the Festival program. Approximately half of the time was spent in visiting cultural institutions and sports events. A small unit from the Austrian delegation attended a Youth Union Congress. In general, however, there was very little opportunity for contact with other delegations. Western visitors were isolated by large contingents of FDJ and non-uniformed East German police, while Soviet and Satellite groups were carefully guarded in the same way.

Propaganda Line at the World Youth Festival

11. The propaganda line taken at the World Youth Festival of Prague in 1950 was considerably altered at the Berlin Festival, where the peace theme was expressed approximately as follows: Peace, but if provocations continue, we shall strike back. Western delegates in Berlin were clearly surprised and displeased to find a major part of the propaganda effort directed at glorifying the personality of Stalin, rather than

emphasizing the role of Communism in the fight for peace. "Ami, go home!" served as the chief slogan for all delegations. A secondary theme, particularly popular with West Germans, was that of the struggle for a united Germany. Some West German and Austrian delegates held the view that a united Germany would automatically include Austria.

12. The Communists took full advantage of the propaganda opportunities offered by United States authorities in barring the passage of British and French youths en route to Berlin via Western Austria. Special receptions were held to welcome late-comers who had succeeded in circumventing Allied controls. German newspapers featured prominent pictures of travellers injured in the blockade. Apparently as a result of this publicity, many non-Party visitors from Western countries announced that they would join Communist youth groups to fight for a free Europe.

Communist Reaction to Counter-Propaganda

13. Balloons which scattered anti-Communist leaflets over East Berlin inspired Festival officials to encourage the following slogan:

"Eins, zwei, drei, vier
Der Ami schickt uns Klopapier"

The leaflets, however, were widely read. Communist officials issued orders against the arrest of propagandists who had entered from West Berlin to start public discussions on political matters. To counteract the activities of these persons, Festival leaders called for special teams of skilled speakers to join in the discussions.

Contact with West Berlin

14. Festival leaders made no attempt to promote action against the Western Occupation Forces. Delegates were forbidden to enter West Berlin and, for the most part, conformed to this rule after several incidents in which FDJ members were injured in encounters with the West German Police. Although those involved in the incidents were hailed as martyrs, FDJ members entering western sectors for the first time were pleasantly surprised at the treatment which they received there.

Austrian Impressions of the Berlin Festival

15. Austrians visiting Berlin found that living conditions in East Germany appeared to be far worse than those in Austria. (6) Austrians were surprised at the FDJ's adoption of the old Prussian triple "Hurra" and at the use of Wehrmacht-type chevrons by the East German Police. Apart from some unfavorable reaction to the Stalinist propaganda, however, Austrians were well impressed by the management and scope of the World Youth Festival.

- 25X1 (1) ☐ Comment: Source failed to mention Upper Austria or Burgenland in this breakdown, although the delegation included groups from both provinces.
- 25X1 (2) ☐ Comment: The Preparatory Committee was directed by Karl Reiter in the Haus der Jugend, Vienna IV, Prinz Eugenstrasse 12. On or about 6 July 1951 Reiter, Brichacek and Breunig travelled to Berlin to spend ten days discussing arrangements for the Austrian delegation.
- 25X1 (3) ☐ Comment: Although most group leaders were members of the FOeJ district headquarters (Bezirksleitung), the FOeJ experienced some difficulty in finding enough delegates who were willing to accept the responsibility of leadership.
- 25X1 (4) ☐ Comment: These officials appeared to be full-time employees of the KPOe Headquarters in Vienna IX, Masagasse 10.
- 25X1 (5) ☐ Comment: The Zentralrat, which had its headquarters in the Haus der Jugend on Alexanderplatz, consisted of a preparatory committee including Otto Brichacek and an action committee including Karl Reiter.
- (6) ☐ Comment: A number of skilled workers from ^{the} Austrian delegation were offered five-year contracts with East-German industries, but rejected the offers because of poor living conditions in East Germany.